

WW2 Airfields at Horham, Eye and Thorpe Abbots

During World War Two the sound of aircraft engines was heard almost every day from 1942 onwards as the Mighty Eighth took off, formed up or came in for landing at the three airfields that surrounded Hoxne.

The airfields at Horham, Eye and Thorpe Abbots were very welcoming to the local communities and many of the Hoxne youngsters found their way to one, or other of these 'little Americas' for parties or just sight-seeing!

Building of the airfields was a wonder of organisation, skill and hard work!

Additional data will be added as it becomes available. Each airfield does have a dedicated website and Thorpe Abbots and Horham both have museums which are well worth a visit.

Main Information

Horham Airfield

Station 119 -built originally for RAF: construction commenced 1942

1943 June 15th -95th Bomb Group arrived

334th Squadron, 335th Squadron, 336th Squadron, 412th Squadron

Aircraft: - B-17F and later B-17G 'Flying Fortress

Designated HQ for 13th Combat Bombardment Wing of 3rd Air Division

Awards -Three Presidential Unit Citations

321 Combat Missions-with 8625 sorties flown

338 B-17s used dropping 19,769 tons of ordnance

1945 August -base deactivated

Thorpe Abbots

Station 139 -built originally as a satellite site for Station 119

Build started - 1942: constructed by John Laing & Sons

1943 June 9th -100th Bomb Group arrived

349th Squadron, 350th Squadron, 351st Squadron, and 418th Squadron.

Became known as 'Bloody 100th' because of huge losses of personnel and aircraft

Aircraft: - B-17F and later B-17G 'Flying Fortress

Accommodation for 2900 personnel

Awards -Two Distinguished Unit Citations and Croix de Guerre

306 Combat Missions

1945 December-base deactivated

Eye

Station 134/138-built originally for RAF: construction commenced 1942

Build started -1942 by 827th and 859th Battalions of U.S. Army Engineers

1st May 1944 -airfield opened:-490th Bomb Group arrived

848th Squadron, 849th Squadron , 850th Squadron , 851st Squadron

Aircraft -B-24 (Liberator) B-17 Flying Fortress